

# Festival features world music, dance

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When like minded people get together amazing things can happen.

"You have to work and collaborate with people who have new ways of looking at things. But first you have to give yourself permission to explore," said flutist Ginka Gerova Ortega, artistic director of Music Viva which will present a Festival of World Music and Dance, Friday, May 10 at the Smith Theatre on Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills. "The world is very small. You carry it with you."

Blakuye (Unity) African Drama Ensemble, singer Shu Ping, the Motor City Milongueros Tango Dancers, the Tango Para Siempre Group, and Grupo Musica Viva featuring Ortega, Emily Kiesler, cello, Glenn Boring, percussion, Julian



Ginka Gerova Ortega

Devoux, bayan, and Juan Herrera, guitar will perform.

"I'm very much into world music now," said Ortega who was trained as a classical flutist and studied with Jean Pierre Rampal. "I like the melodies and rhythm. The soul of Latin music is flute. I am surprising myself by how much of what I love is so

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**Ginka Gerova Ortega**  
Flutist, artistic director of Music Viva

easy - it just comes to me."

World music was not popular when Ortega started the Music Viva World concert series 20 years ago. Now it's norm.

"My silent gesture has a loud voice," she said. "We are part of a

universe that is awakening. We are the ones who make a difference. Our lives are a white canvas. Every day I ask myself, 'how am I going to make a difference? We are small but we can do big things.'"

Each Musica Viva concert is like a microcosm of the world, she says. This concert will showcase music from three continents and 10 countries - from the mysterious of African drums, to the luscious melodies of China, and Latin American tango.

Ortega heard Blakuye in Ann Arbor and was very impressed with the group's authenticity. One of its members, Mark Stone, is a scholar who has studied West African music.

## Festival of World Music and Dance

**What:** An exotic journey in song and dance, from the mysteries of the African drums, to the voices of China, to the passionate sounds of Latin America.

**When:** 8 p.m. Friday, May 10  
**Where:** Smith Theatre, Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge campus, Orchard Lake Road, south of 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Tickets: \$16 in advance, \$18 at the door. \$25 reserved. (248) 522-3667

City in September. She is a resident of Bloomfield Hills, and was recently recognized for her contribution to the metro Detroit cultural scene by CORP! magazine.



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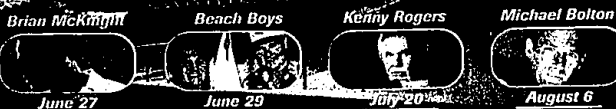
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|             | <b>16</b> | <b>Heart wsg Eric Burdon</b>                               |
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| <b>Aug</b>  | <b>1</b>  | <b>The Rippingtons, Jean Luc-Ponty, &amp; David Benoit</b> |
|             | <b>2</b>  | <b>Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance</b>                 |
|             | <b>6</b>  | <b>Michael Bolton</b>                                      |

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**8:30-11pm -**  
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